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March 27, 2002 LB 1062, 1107

committee amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The committee amendments are adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Maxwell would move to amend, AM3351. (Legislative Journal pages 1217-1219.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Maxwell, to open on your amendment, please.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment is taken from LB 1107, a bill of mine which was advanced by a 6-0 vote from the Health and Human Services Committee. Last summer, the University of Nebraska Medical Center contacted me about a looming problem for a unique program at the Med Center. It's a dual degree program for students who are pursuing a doctorate in medicine and a doctorate in philosophy, an M.D., Ph.D. program. It was established in the mid nineties, 1994, and we now have some students coming through this program who are facing an unwarranted pressure to complete their examinations on time. Some of you may be familiar with the United States Medical Licensing Exam. It happens in three stages. In fact, I'll ask you now to turn to my high-tech visual aid that you should have received by now and I'll just quickly take you through the time line. The first line there, the sheet is marked AM3351. What I have at the top there, that first time line, shows the typical progression for the medical school student. You do four years of medical school and then three years of residency, and if you look just below the time line where I have "exam" and then there are three numbers, one, two, and three, and they're circled, that circled number one shows the first exam in the sequence that you have to take. Typically, you take that at the end of the second year of medical school. Then you complete medical school and you take exam number two. That's at the end of year four. Six years into your residency you are eligible to take the third and final exam in the series. The status quo now is that you have several years to take that third exam, and I have indicated there with an arrow from the time that you take exam number one you have seven years to complete exams two and three. So, one more time, if you look at the number one circled there,